FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

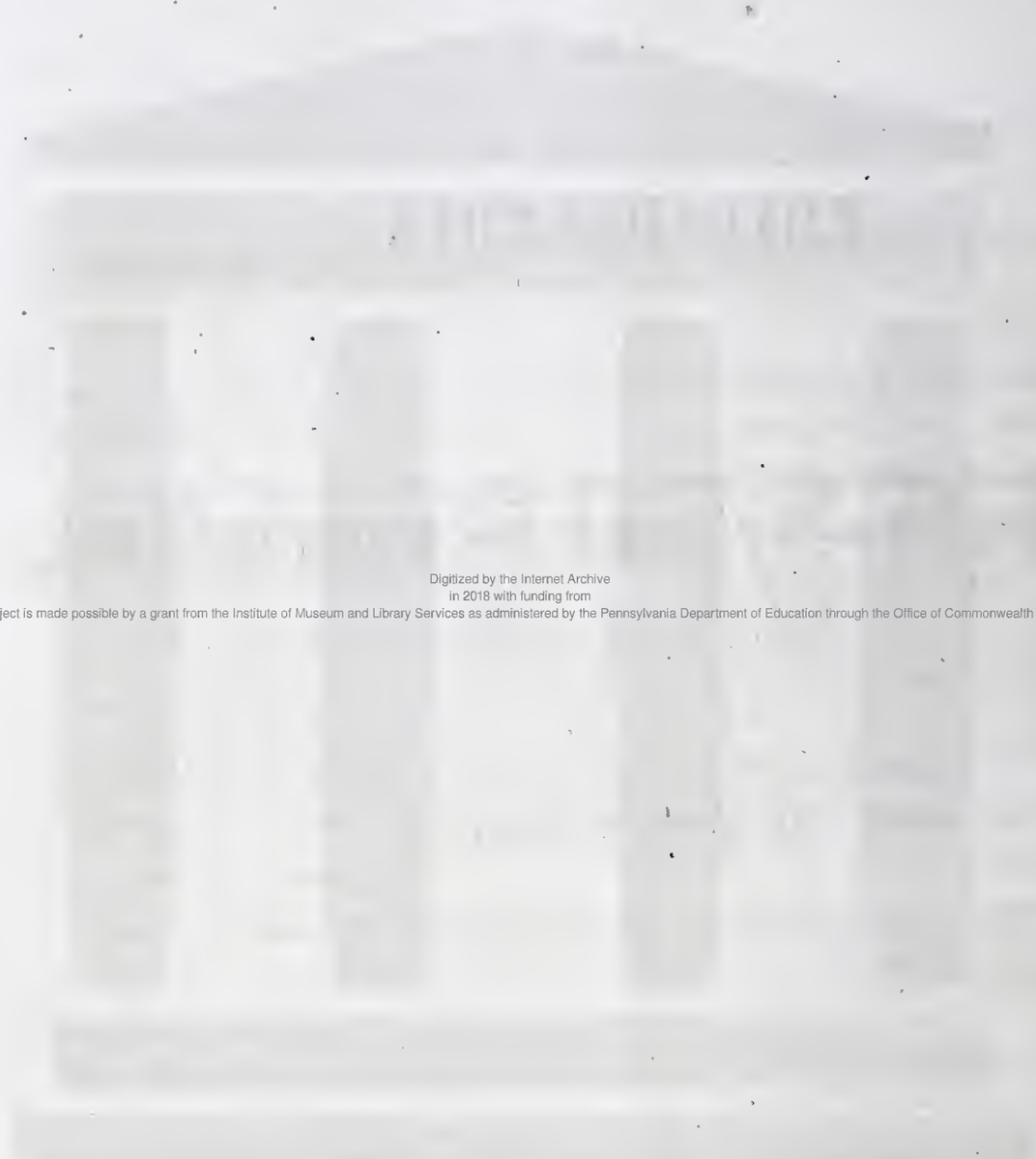
OF THE

PHILADELPHIA

Sabbath-School Association,

MAY, 1860.

PHILADELPHIA:
HENRY B. ASHMEAD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,
SANSOM STREET ABOVE ELEVENTH.
1860.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries

https://archive.org/details/annualreportofph00phil_24

The Fifth Anniversary of the Philadelphia Sabbath-School Association took place on Monday evening, May 15th, in the Church corner of Sansom and Broad Streets.

The Chair was occupied by Dr. Kingsbury. Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Cornell, of the Presbyterian Church, and the reading of the Scriptures by the Rev. Mr. Bower, of the Protestant Methodist Church.

The Report was read by Mr. Wm. Getty, Secretary of the Society; after which, interesting addresses and statements were made by the Rev. Dr. Brantley, Rev. Dr. Newton, Rev. J. M. Crowell, Rev. J. W. Jackson, Rev. John Chambers, and Mr. R. Gillou, Mr. Peter Simons and Mr. John Wanamaker. The attendance was large, and the interest kept up for two hours.

PHILADELPHIA SUNDAY-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION IN ACCOUNT WITH DANIEL STEINMETZ, TREASURER.

1859.	*Cr.*		
June 18th.	By balance as per Report, . .		$109 22
Aug. 20th.	By Cash received from Robert Raikes' School Building, . . .		136 78
	By Cash various Subscriptions, .		791 00
	" " from Sunday-School, Rev. Mr. Wylie's Church, . . .		25 00
			$1062 00

Dr.

To Cash paid on account of salaries, . .	$900 00	
To Cash paid sundry bills for Printing, &c., .	152 25	
		1052 25
By balance in treasury, . .		$9 75

DANIEL STEINMETZ, *Treasurer.*

E. E.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 1*st*, 1860.

ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting the fifth Annual Report of the Philadelphia Sabbath-school Association, the particular attention of the friends of the great cause is invited to a consideration of its claims, and the importance of the work in which it is engaged.

Many earnest, warm-hearted Christians doubtless think, that the numerous Sabbath-schools connected with the various churches are sufficient to accommodate all the children of our great city, thus rendering Mission Schools unnecessary. The experience of this Association proves the contrary; and it is now an established fact, that Church Schools could not contain the children, if they were willing to go.

A very large number of parents are living in neglect of church privileges; their children grow up without religious influence. The church may be next to their dwellings, but neither parent nor child attends; both are prejudiced, and this prejudice strengthens as they become older. Repeated efforts have been made to overcome the objections of people to attend church, and send their children to the nearest Sabbath-school, but generally without success. A great multitude, both of parents and children, are, therefore, comparative strangers to any good religious influence.

How shall these be reached, and brought under the influence and teachings of the Gospel? This Association is one of the great means employed by the Head of the Church. It goes to the homes of the careless and the ignorant, to the street corners, the fields, the parks, and the wharves, and pleads with parents and children, speaks to them words of sympathy and

love; gathers adults and children into an upper room, a shop, a stable, or under a tree in the open field, and there tells them of a Saviour's love. It goes to the Church, and begs for Christian men and women to take charge of those that have been gathered in. It says to superintendents and teachers of our old Church Schools, there are thousands living in your midst who have none to point them to the Lamb of God. It draws to the Church the outcast and the ignorant. Surely such an Association is deserving of a warm and generous sympathy and support.

During the year just closed, 19 new Mission Schools were organized, and 910 scholars gathered into the same.

Number of schools previously organized, . . .	81
Whole number of Mission Schools established through the instrumentality of this Association, . .	100
Number of Church Sabbath-schools, ...	239
Making a total of . . .	339
Number of scholars in Mission Schools, per last report,	6,988
" " since admitted, ...	910
Making a total of . . .	7,898
Whole number of Sabbath-schools, ...	339
" " Teachers in Sabbath-schools, . .	7,700
" " Scholars " " . .	65,000

The number of children not connected with any Sabbath-school is supposed to be about 30,000.

The past year has been full of blessing. In many of the schools the Holy Spirit has done a gracious work. Reports from 65 schools show the nnmber of conversions during the year to have been 638; supposing these to represent about one-fourth of the evangelical Sunday-schools of the city, the actual conversions during the year from the Sabbath-school alone must exceed 2500. The angels of God must have had great rejoicing over the gathering of so many lambs into the

Redeemer's fold. And what shall be done for 30,000 precious ones that are straying away from the Good Shepherd? Shall these perish?

Mr. Abraham Martin, the General Superintendent of the Association, has been actively engaged in organizing Mission Schools; in making appeals to the churches; and in awakening a general interest in the community. He has delivered, on an average, four addresses on each Sabbath-day, in different localities, and not without good results, as the above facts so plainly show.

The Missionary, Mr. E. H. Toland, has made an average of 100 visits weekly, distributing bibles and tracts, providing clothing and homes for destitute children. He has also made addresses in more than 100 Sunday-schools; has given 30 exhibitions of the magic lantern for the benefit of Sunday-schools, and aided in the organizatian of 15 Mission Schools. The details of missionary work are full of interest.

During the year, an interesting and instructive course of lectures was delivered in the First Baptist Church (Rev. Mr. Cuthbert's), the opening lecture by Prof. John S. Hart, followed by Revds. Dr. Newton, Brantley, and Brainerd, and Revds. W. J. R. Taylor, J. Wheaton Smith, and Dr. Cornell. The thanks of the Association are due to these brethren. The publication of these lectures in a popular form would be of great service to the Sabbath-school cause.

A circular was issued by the General Superintendent in February last, addressed to the Superintendents of the different Sunday-schools, requesting information in regard to the number of teachers, number of scholars, number of conversions, whether preaching or prayer meetings were sustained, whether teachers visited parents, &c. 109 schools reported; had all done so, the statistics would have been exceedingly useful and interesting.

In this connection it is proper to state, that the hearty and prompt co-operation of all the Church Sabbath-schools with

this Association would exert an influence that would be powerful for good. It is hoped that each school will elect two representatives to attend the monthly and quarterly meetings of the Association.

The valuable aid of the American Sunday-school Union has been extended, and is hereby thankfully acknowledged.

As a means of increasing the usefulness of Sabbath-schools, it is earnestly recommended to all to keep correct records or minutes, to have regular and faithful visitation on the part of teachers, to be punctual in opening and closing the school, to accompany the Sabbath's teaching with personal appeals to each scholar.

Attention is directed to an evil which is becoming more apparent every week, viz., the spending of money for sweetmeats that had been given to the scholars for missionary purposes. Many shops, it is believed, are purposely opened on the Sabbath, to entice children to spend money given to them by their parents for the Sabbath-school.

Some time since a resolution was passed, recommending each church to organize a Mission School in some destitute location. As a result of this action, together with the earnest appeals of the General Superintendent, about forty churches now sustain Mission Sabbath-schools.

The erection of Mission Chapels is a most commendable undertaking; several have been built during the past two years. They serve the double purpose of gathering the children into their comfortable rooms as a Sabbath school, and the assembling of the parents to hear the gospel preached. Already great good has been done. It is believed that a benevolence of the largest and most practical kind would be the immediate erection of fifty or more Mission Chapels similar to those of Tabor and Bethany, and that now being built by Robert Cornelius, Esq. Mission Chapels have been built at a cost ranging from $750 to about $6000. Shall there not be an effort made to dot our city all over with these chapels? Long after

the builders and donors have gone to their rest, they will remain a source of blessing to a great multitude.

In closing this Report, it may be proper to refer to the absence of the worthy President of the Association, on a visit to his friends on the other side of the Atlantic. Our prayer is, that his life may be spared; he made abundantly useful during his absence, and permitted to return full of the spirit of the Master.

One of our Vice-Presidents has been called away by that stern messenger, death. Mr. Burtis was elected Vice-President in 1856, and continued to hold the office until his decease. He was very punctual in attending the meetings while health permitted; was faithful in the discharge of duty, and always manifested a deep interest in the Sabbath-school cause. He has gone from the busy scenes of earth, to enjoy the happiness of the life that never ends. May those who remain be admonished that the time of their departure draweth nigh, and that whatever our hands find to do should be done quickly.

DETAILS OF OPERATIONS.

A visit was made to several of the schools organized by the Sunday-School Association. The first, located on the Frankford Road beyond Richmond, commenced nine months ago. At the time of its beginning no room could be found, no one of the neighbors favoring the enterprise. They would not permit even their yards to be used to receive the children. Finally, it was agreed to assemble the little ones along the road, under a large tree, and they were invited to meet there. On the following Sabbath, thirty children were found under the branches of the large tree, with a few adults, all of whom united in singing; then prayer was offered, and an address made, after which, the children were urged to find some place for their next meeting, and, if none could be obtained, they

would assemble in the same place. Seats were forwarded during the week, and, on the next Sabbath, the Missionary proceeded to the spot, but no child was there. After waiting a little season, he was informed by the tavern-keeper that the children might be found in the upper room of an old farm-house, partly occupied by an old man, who was very infirm, and who had given consent to some of the children to have his house opened on the Sabbath, to accommodate the neglected children of the neighborhood. Some forty children were found waiting the arrival of the Missionary. Providence had signally opened the way for this school to go on. An appeal having been made by the General Superintendent on behalf of this school, in a church one and a half miles off, brought together eight persons, who gave their consent to take charge of the school. The school was organized and the officers appointed, and it now numbers 80 scholars, with 10 teachers. As a result of this enterprise, a public school has been commenced, and a building is in progress to accommodate the children. Most of the teachers come a distance of a mile and a half, and manifest much interest in the work. The people in this neighborhood have expressed a strong desire to hear the Gospel, and before long they will have that privilege.

The second school, located about a mile from the above, was organized a month after, and is located at a place known as the Match Factory. The population around here are mostly Roman Catholic families, it was therefore thought that a Sunday school could not be sustained, but the effort was made, the school commenced, teachess secured, and it now numbers 100 scholars, some of whom are Catholics, six from one family. When visited last, the room was entirely filled, so much so, that it was almost impossible to gain admission. The school is well supplied with teachers, and the Gospel is here preached to the parents, and 15 have been converted to God. It was pleasing to witness such results from so small beginnings. How true is that promise in God's Word: "He that goeth forth

weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless return rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

The third school is located on Twenty-third Street, above Race, and was commenced as follows:—A few months ago, the Missionary of the Sunday-School Association, in his rambles about the city, had an occasion to go to Fairmount, and while passing over a lot was accosted by a little, ragged boy, who desired a small book, which was given to the lad by the Missionary. He was asked whether he went to Sunday-school. He said he did not, but would like to go. The Missionary, supposing that a school was held near this place, asked the little fellow why he did not go there. He said it had been given up, in consequence of the death of its superintendent. Would he attend, if another could be started. His reply was, "Yes, sir," while his eyes brightened up, he observed, "And I can get more to come too." The boy accompanied the Missionary down a dark avenue, composed of small houses facing each other, and occupied by poor families, and they mostly Roman Catholic. The Missionary commenced unfolding his tracts, which soon brought together a large group of dirty-faced children, while a number of parents stood by watching these little ones, some with evident satisfaction at the eagerness the tracts were received. They were told, if a room could be obtained, a Sunday-school would be started. On hearing this announcement, an Irishman spoke, and said, that if his house would answer, he might have it for a trial. Notice was given that a school would be commenced on the following Sabbath afternoon. The Missionary left, and spoke to a brother about the school. This brother said he knew a person who would assume the responsibility, and carry forward the school. On the succeeding Sabbath he was present, with two other brethren, and twelve children. The time was improved by singing, prayer, and addresses, and the children urged to come again, and bring others. From this small beginning a Mission was established, having some seventy-five children in attend-

ance, with ten teachers. A large room was rented (formerly a carpenter shop), where the school is held, and where the Gospel is preached, and prayer meeting conducted every Friday evening. Parents and children manifest much interest.

The fourth school visited was the third school organized by the Association. It was held in the Water Work's Building in Kensington. When first thought of it was considered by some brethern in the district as entirely unnecessary, that all the children were in Sunday-schools, and if there were any left out, their parents would not permit them to go, as the building was so near the water. The neighborhood was however canvassed, and on the following Sabbath, after an appeal had been made in the nearest church by the General Superintendent, we found one hundred and fifty children with twenty teachers; the school was organized, the officers appointed, and on the third Sabbath it numbered two hundred children and thirty teachers.

Eighteen months ago another school was commenced by the Association and given to the same church. It was held in a carpenter shop on Duke and Ash street, and numbered one hundred children. Both schools were kept up in successful operation until about four months ago, when they were blended together in a new Mission House, erected by the teachers and their friends, at a cost of fourteen hundred dollars. On the last Sabbath in February the missionary visited this building and found nearly five hundred children present, filling up every part of the entire room. It might well have been compared to a bee-hive. The teachers have it in contemplation to enlarge the building to accommodate the applicants. The gospel has been proclaimed Sabbath after Sabbath, and some forty scholars and parents have been converted. Arrangements are making to secure a regular pastor.

Eternity will only reveal what has been the result of this effort through the instrumentality of the Philadelphia Sunday-School Association.

The school on Haverford and Logan street (W. P.) was com-

menced lately as follows: Believing the location to be suitable, inquiry was made for a room of a hotel keeper connecting with his house, which had been used as a barber shop, and which he consented to give, and promised that his own children should attend. The district was then canvassed, and on the following Sabbath there were thirty children and four adults present, including the tavert keeper, who seeing we had but few seats, furnished sufficient stools to accommodate the school from his own house. He was much pleased at the sight before him, and remarked, "that he would much prefer the business of teaching, to that in which he was engaged, selling rum," and then said, the school was welcome to meet in the room without charge. On the following Sabbath there were present a much larger number of pupils and adults including the hotel keeper, and on the last Sabbath fifty-three children with six teachers were in attendence. This school has been taken charge of by a church about a mile from the spot.

A little girl connected with one of our mission schools, whose parents removed to some distance, felt so much attached to the school, and not being able to attend owing to the distance, forwarded every Sabbath her Penny for more than a year for the missionary cause, and believe she continues to do so.

We have learned that in several churches where revivals have taken place, the work commenced among the children, then the parents, then the congregation.

We have to deplore the want of a band of men from all our churches to go through our streets where hundreds of Boys are to be found during the hours of worship and school. Measures should certainly be adopted to prevent this desecration of the Sabbath by those multitudes of wicked boys.

The Rev. Dr. NEWTON presented and read, at the anniversary, the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

"As the Philadelphia Sabbath-School Association aims at no less than to enlist, as Sabbath-school teachers, every Christian man and woman who has the ability to engage in such a service, and to bring into the Sunday-school every child in our city who can be induced to attend; and whereas, in view of what has already been accomplished through the instrumentality of this Association in the organization of Mission Sabbath-schools and aiding others in our city, therefore,

"*Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended to the American Sunday-School Union, and all our evangelical churches and friends of this noble cause, to lend their aid in support of this Society."

DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

TO

The Philadelphia Sabbath-school Association,

FOR 1858–'59.

George H. Stuart,	$300 00
J. S. Cummings,	25 00
Wm. Getty,	25 00
J. M. Harper,	25 00
John Weist,	25 00
J. R. Soders,	25 00
Thos. Tolman,	25 00
Jno. C. Farr,	25 00
L. L. Houpt,	25 00
Lewis Renshaw,	25 00
J. B. Rodgers,	25 00
Jas. Patterson,	25 00
Lewis R. Ashhurst,	25 00
Miss H. Holland,	25 00
J. W. Sexton,	25 00
Miss Birt,	25 00
W. Sargent, for Sunday-school of Tenth Presbyterian Church,	25 00
Rev. Dr. Newton,	25 00
Abel Reed, for Sunday-school of the Advent Church,	25 00
C. E. Morgan,	25 00
Wm. A. Porter,	25 00
Jos. D. Reinboth, for Sunday-school of West Arch Street Presbyterian Church,	25 00
Martin Buehler, for Sunday-school of St. Matthew's L. Church,	25 00
Charles Wurts and Teachers,	25 00
John Pechin,	25 00

S. A. Allibone, for Sunday-school of St. Philip's Church,	$25 00
Wm. Heyl, for Sunday-school of St. John's Lutheran Church,	25 00
Alexander Fullerton,	25 00
Cornelius Stevenson,	25 00
Mrs. Wm. Hanson,	25 00
Mrs. Gunn,	25 00
John Weist, for Sunday-school of German Reformed Church,	25 00
Arch Street Church Sunday-school,	50 00
Robert Cornelius & Son,	35 00
Jno. P. Crozer,	25 00
Isaac R. Smith,	25 00
Moses Brown,	20 00
T. E. Harper,	20 00
S. Morris Waln,	20 00
S. R. Y. Beck,	20 00
J. M. Collingwood,	10 00
Cash,	10 00
Do.	10 00
Do.	10 00
Do.	10 00
Wm. R. McAdam, for Seventh Presbyterian Sunday-school,	17 00
Stuart Hebler, for Sunday-school of Church of our Saviour,	15 00
A. M. Warthman, for Sunday-school of Buttonwood Presbyterian Church,	18 00
Hyram Ayres, for Sunday-school of North Presbyterian Church,	12 00
Wm. Warner,	25 00
Dr. Kingsbury,	25 00
Edwin Booth,	25 00